

State of California

Decoto
The Resources Agency**Memorandum**

Date : March 13, 1996

to : Patrick O'Brien
Department of Fish and Game
Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

From : Department of Water Resources

Subject : For Your Files: 1994 Lake Davis Creel Census

In 1994, the California Department of Water Resources, Northern District conducted an Angler Survey on Lake Davis, Plumas County. These surveys were made on 27 days throughout the 201 days of the 1994 general California Sierra District trout fishing (stream) season. Anglers were interviewed to determine hours fished, terminal gear, whether they fished from boat or shore, where they were from, and the species, number, and size of fish caught (if any).

We contacted 789 anglers who reported they fished 2,706 hours, with an observed total catch of 460 rainbow trout (Figure 1), 97 brown bullheads, 2 bass, and one bluegill. In addition, 102 rainbow trout and 2 brown bullheads were reported caught and released.

The mean length of rainbow trout caught by all anglers was 39.9 cm (15.7 in) fork length, among fish measuring from 25.0 to 50.0 cm (9.8 to 19.7 in). Rainbow trout catch rate was 0.17 fish/hour. The average length of brown bullheads caught was 28.2 cm (11.1 in) total length (Figure 2).

Shore anglers were represented by 431 anglers fishing 1,212 hours and taking 194 rainbows (0.16 fish/hour) with a mean length of 39.7 cm (15.6 in). Shore anglers also creeled 85 brown bullheads and 2 bass. They reported 15 rainbow trout caught and released.

Boat anglers reported a catch of 266 rainbow trout and 2 brown bullheads in 1,494 hours of fishing (0.17 fish/hour). The mean length of the rainbow trout was 40.2 cm (15.8 in). They also reported 87 rainbows caught and released.

The results are similar to earlier creel census information collected by the California Department of Fish and Game (Table 1). However, the comparability of 1994 results is limited since the 1990, 1992, and 1993 DFG surveys covered only 2 or 3 days each year.

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Table 1. Lake Davis Creel Census Comparison (RT = Rainbow Trout,
BBH = Brown Bullhead, LMB = Largemouth Bass)

Agency/Year	Days Surveyed	Censused Anglers	Hours Recorded	RT Caught	RT Catch/Hr	BBH Caught	LMB Caught
DFG (1990)	3	122	338.25	88	0.26	43	18
DFG (1992)	2	105	333.75	63	0.19	40	8
DFG (1993)	2	76	222.5	22	0.10	3	2
DWR (1994)	27	789	2,706.0	480	0.17	97	2

34 days

633

183

30

Lake Davis angler origin (Figure 3) was predominantly from Nevada (43 percent, mainly Reno); followed by Northeastern California counties (35 percent) and the San Francisco Bay Area (10 percent).

Information on boating use of Lake Davis, and also boater origin, was also collected on the 27 survey days. We surveyed all boat ramps on the eastern shore of the lake (Grizzly, Honker Cove, Lightning Tree) three times per day; the Old Camp Five boat ramp on the west shore was not regularly surveyed (except for creel census), but did not appear to contribute significantly to boating use. We estimate that 56,000 boat-hours of boating occurred during the study period. We calculated an average of 2.2 persons per boat, indicating that about 128,000 recreation hours of boating occurred on Lake Davis during the study period. We did not record what activities boaters were engaged in, but it was apparent that most boaters were fishing. Approximately 50 percent of the boaters were from Nevada, while the other 50 percent were from California.

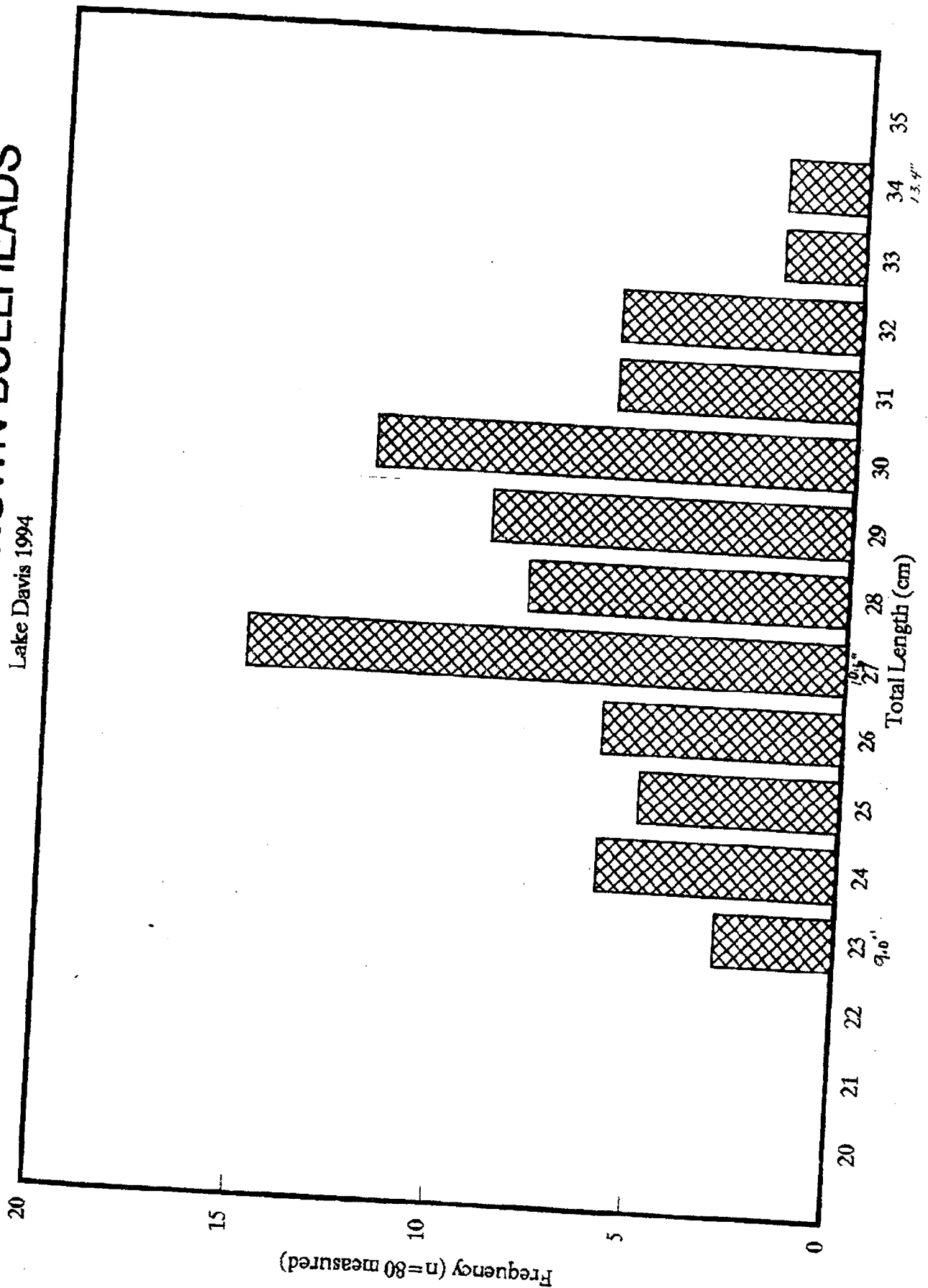
If you require any additional information regarding this or other related DWR data collection efforts, please contact me at (916) 529-7357.



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FIGURE 2. CREELED BROWN BULLHEADS
Lake Davis 1994



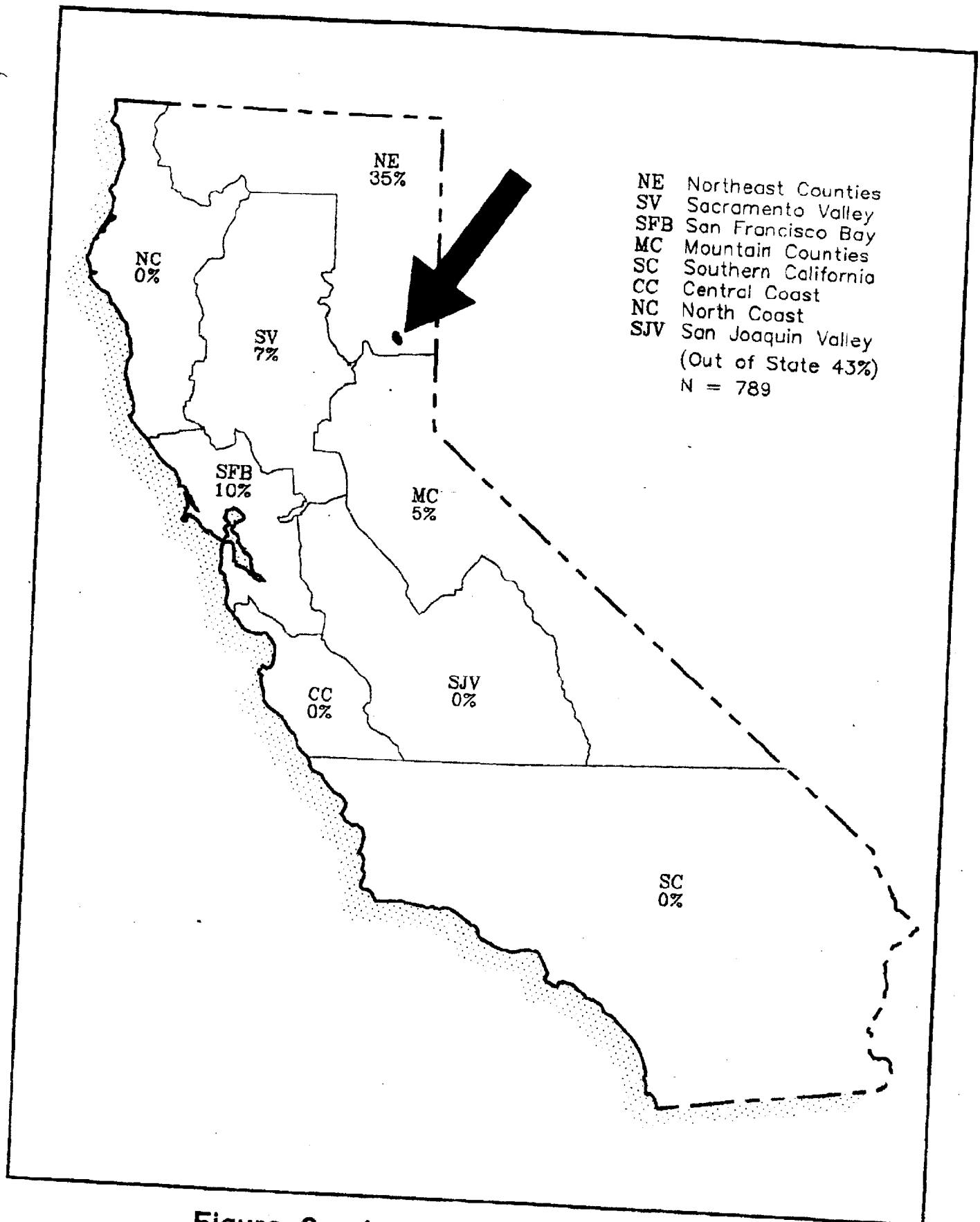


Figure 3 - Lake Davis Angler Origin
1994